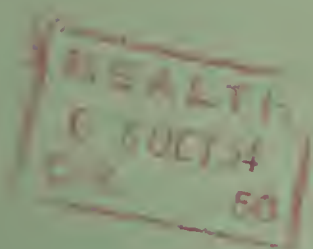


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1953

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to which is appended the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

of the

RURAL DISTRICT

of

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH

Norfolk.



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RURAL DISTRICT OF

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH

Norfolk.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A.R.GUILD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W.H.EDWARDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G.DAVIES

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The estimated mid-year population of the district was 18,460, a decrease of 70 compared with the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

280 births, of which 21 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 191 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (15.17) has increased by 0.28 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1952 (14.89) and is still slightly lower than the rate for England and Wales (15.5).

There were 7 still births during the year.

The births comparability factor - ratio of the national to the local fertility index - remained at 1.24.

The number of deaths during the year - 191 - was 60 less than in 1952, and gives a death rate of 10.35, a decrease of 3.20. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.4.

The deaths comparability factor was the same as last year, 0.80.

The decrease in deaths was due to a welcome drop in the numbers due to malignant disease in the various categories (-16), and to a fall of 12 coming under the heading "other defined and ill defined diseases".

It is interesting to note that the death rate of 10.35 appears to be the lowest ever recorded in the district, and only in 1949 was a smaller number of deaths recorded - 189. (No data are available for the years 1915 - 1918 inclusive).

The still birth rate was slightly higher than last year's rate 0.38 as against 0.32, and the England and Wales rate of 0.35.

There were only 4 deaths of infants under one year of age - a record low figure which is likely to stand for many years to come. The infant mortality rate was 14.29 while the rate for England and Wales was 26.8. 3 of the 4 deaths occurred under 4 weeks of age. The causes of death were (a) prematurity - 2; (b) tentorial tear and prematurity - 1; (c) convulsions and whooping cough - 1 - at age of two months.

Infectious diseases were responsible for 10 deaths - whooping cough 1 and pneumonia 9.

There was one death from tuberculosis of the respiratory system giving a mortality rate of 0.05, the England and Wales rate being 0.20.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the year was very low - 120 - and of this total whooping cough was responsible for 75 cases. There is little doubt that this did not represent the true incidence of whooping cough as, generally speaking, the disease was mild in character and the family doctor was sometimes not called in. Further it was not uncommon for children to have a prolonged cough, unaccompanied either by the characteristic "whoop" or vomiting - such cases would not be notified.

Immunisation against whooping cough has now been instituted on a larger scale. This may be combined with diphtheria immunisation or given separately. While such immunisation does not afford a degree of protection comparable with that of diphtheria, it is confidently believed that the vaccine is now sufficiently reliable to justify its wider use. Figures of complete immunisations to the end of the year are given along with the data for diphtheria immunisations.

Scarlet Fever - was again a mild disease, only 7 notifications having been received. A problem in diagnosis is presented in this disease by reason of the frequent absence of marked symptoms and the fleeting character of the rash.

Poliomyelitis. Two cases were notified, one an R.A.F. personnel at Swanton Morley, and the second in a boy aged 5 who has required prolonged treatment in a convalescent home.

There have also been many cases of mumps and chicken pox, but these are not notifiable diseases.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	1953	1952	1951	1950	Admitted to Hospital	Notification Rate per 1,000 population	
						Mitford & Launditch	England & Wales
Scarlet fever	7	9	7	27	3	0.38	1.39
Measles	17	313	37	354	1	0.92	12.36
Whooping cough	75	33	81	58	2	4.06	3.58
Pneumonia	6	6	13	11		0.33	0.84
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	1	-	-		-	-
Infectious hepatitis	11	12	19	33		0.60	
Dysentery-amoebic	-	-	4	20			
-sonne	2	-	7	-		0.11	
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	1	1	1		
Poliomyelitis	2	2	-	6		0.11	0.06
Food poisoning	-	9	-	7		-	0.24
	120	386	169	517			

Disease	Age Groups.													Total
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Measles	1	2	1	3	-	7	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	17
Whooping cough	5	7	9	7	7	35	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	75
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	6
Infectious Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	2	2	1	-	-	11
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Total	6	9	10	11	8	46	11	3	3	6	1	2	4	120

Tuberculosis

14 cases were added to the register during the year, 10 of these being new cases while 3 were inward transfers and 1 was a restoration to the register. In another case a provisional diagnosis of T.B. was made but this was not confirmed. One has to go back to 1945 to find so few additions to the register. While the present methods of diagnosis are better than ever they were in the past, it is sincerely hoped that this low rate of notifications will be maintained in the future.

The comparative figures for the preceding three years were:-

1952 - 25. 1951 - 19. 1950 - 26.

The distribution of the 14 cases by age and sex is given in the following table:-

Age Period	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	1	1
5 - 10	-	-	1	-
10-15	-	-	1	-
15-25	1	1	-	-
25-35	2(a)	-	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	-
45-55	3(b)	-	-	-
55-65	1 (R)	-	-	-
65-75	-	2	-	-
	7	3	3	1

(a) denotes one inward transfer; (b) denotes two inward transfers; (R) denotes restoration to the register.

Three patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Dereham, for treatment.

There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis giving a mortality rate of 0.05 as compared with 0.05 in 1952. The rate for England and Wales was 0.20. As in other parts of the country, there has been a marked fall in the number of deaths due to tuberculosis. In the decade 1941 - 1950 there were 76 deaths, with an annual average of 7.6. For the last three years the numbers were 1951 - 4, 1952 - 1, and 1953 - 1.

The numbers remaining on the register were:-

	<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-respiratory</u>			<u>Grand Total.</u>
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.52	24	30	54	28	18	46	100
31.12.53	27	27	54	23	18	41	95

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1953 are given below with the data for Mitford and Launditch in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications

Respiratory.	Case Rate.	Non-respiratory.	Case Rate.
170 (6)	0.45 (0.33)	54 (4)	0.14 (0.22)

The mortality figures for the same period were

Respiratory.	Case Rate.	Non-respiratory.	Case Rate.
24 (1)	0.06 (0.05)	2 (0)	0.005 (0)

B.C.G. Vaccination.

At the October meeting of the Council it was unanimously resolved that the Public Health Committee of Norfolk County Council be asked to give the strongest consideration to forthwith making available for use throughout the County of B.C.G. vaccine for immunisation against tuberculosis. No decision had been arrived at by the County Council by the end of the year.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Whooping cough	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	8	18
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	17	35
Coronary disease, angina	16	5	21
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	20	19	39
Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
Influenza	3	4	7
Pneumonia	7	2	9
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8	17
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	1	-	1
	<u>109</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>191</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	102,371
Population (estimated mid-1953)	18,460
Rateable value	£ 51,518
Estimated product of a penny rate	£ 216

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year, relating to the net births and deaths after correction for outward and inward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General.

	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
	1953	1952	1953
	Males	Females	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	137	122	259
Illegitimate	8	13	21
Total	145	135	280

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 15.17 14.89 15.5

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Total	6	1	7

Still birth rate per 1,000 resident population 0.38 0.32 0.35

DEATHS (All ages)

109 82 191

Crude death rate per 1,000 resident population 10.35 13.55 11.4

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year)

Legitimate	-	4	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	4	4

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 14.29 36.23 26.8

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme

General practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer have continued to implement this scheme and the following immunisations were carried out:-

<u>Under 5</u>	<u>Full Course</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reinforcing</u>		<u>Grand Total</u>
	<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
102	80	182	26	249	457

In addition 53 children under 5 were given a full course of the combined diphtheria - whooping cough prophylactic and 36 children under 5 and 1 over 5 were given the whooping cough vaccine alone.

Records show that up to 31.12.53. the following numbers of children had been protected against diphtheria:-

<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>2-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>4-</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
7	110	153	128	136	1406	1130	3070

It is known that the immunisation state is slightly higher than the figures indicate as some have been immunised but the relevant medical records have not been received from some medical practitioners.

While the over 5's immunisation state can be regarded as satisfactory, the same can not be said of the under 5's in which there are still a large number of unprotected children. To some extent this is accounted for by the isolated character of a considerable part of the district, and the distance which mothers have to travel to the doctor's surgeries.

Vaccination

There was an appreciable decrease in the number of infant vaccinations; 19 fewer infants under 1 year were protected than in the previous year.

<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>1 yr -</u>	<u>2-4 yrs</u>	<u>5-14 yrs</u>	<u>15 and over.</u>
54	4	4	2	7
Re-vaccinations	-	-	3	8

Housing

The number of houses erected in 1953 was:-

1) By the Local Authority	102
2) By private enterprise	27

This building progress is extremely satisfactory and now the Council own 757 houses.

The houses were erected by the Local Authority at:-

Bawdeswell	12	Litcham	14
Beeston	4	Mattishall	12
North Elmham	10	Scarning	12
Fransham	6	Shipdham	10
Gressenhall	2	East Tuddenham	6
Hockering	6	Weasenham	2
		Wendling	6

To some extent this is reflected in the housing waiting list, there being 333 applicants as against 418 on 31st. December 1952.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

The appropriate action was taken under Part VII of the above regulations in six cases where *Brucella abortus* and six cases where tubercle bacillus were found in milk samples, collected by the County Milk Sampling Officer, on laboratory examination.

<u>Cases Remaining.</u>	<u>New Cases Reported.</u>	<u>Notices Removed.</u>	<u>Cases Remaining.</u>
1.1.53	1.1.53 - 31.12.53	1.1.53 - 31.12.53	31.12.53

Brucella Abortus

8	6	4	10
---	---	---	----

T.B.

Nil	6	4	2
-----	---	---	---

District Water Schemes

A Resident Water Engineer took up duty in August to supervise the construction work involved in the village schemes.

The Council decided to offer consumers a free connection to the mains for a period of 6 months from their completion, subject to a maximum distance of 60 feet.

A direct labour staff is to be set up to carry out the connection work and undertake maintenance of the schemes.

<u>Little Dunham</u>	The scheme has been completed and available for connections. 4 new Council houses were connected.
<u>Hockering</u>	Mainlaying has been completed. Ministry approval is awaited for pumping plant tender.
<u>Rougham</u>	Mainlaying 90% completed. Ministry approval is awaited for pumping plant tender.
<u>Whissonsett</u>	Mainlaying will be carried out early in 1954. Ministry approval is awaited for pumping plant tender.
<u>North Elmham</u>	Mainlaying will be carried out early in 1954. Ministry approval is awaited for high level tank tender.
<u>Litcham & Mattishall</u>	Ministry approval is awaited for mainlaying and high level tank tenders.
<u>Shipdham</u>	Tenders have been received for mainlaying.
<u>Swanton Morley</u>	Outline scheme has been approved and Ministry sanction is awaited for tender submitted in respect of test pumping the existing 6" borehole on the Council housing site.
<u>Colkirk</u>	Outline scheme has been approved and Ministry sanction is awaited for tender submitted in respect of test pumping the existing 6" borehole on the Council housing site.
<u>Beeston</u>	Negotiations are in progress with Ministry re purchase of headworks on aerodrome.
<u>Mileham</u>	Outline scheme approved and Ministry sanction is awaited for tender submitted in respect of a new 8" borehole on the new Council housing estate.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	12	3	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	46	1	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
TOTAL	62	58	4	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuited or defective	1	-	-	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	3	-	1

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health again carried out the duties of Appointed Factory Doctor.

98 juveniles from the area for which he is responsible were examined for fitness for employment, and 59 of these were resident in Mitford and Launditch.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Local Health Services under Part III

Domestic Help Service

The important part played by this County Council's service has again been demonstrated, particularly in respect of the aged and infirm and confinement cases. 81 households were assisted during the year, and now 4 part time and 40 occasional home helps are employed in this area.

Mental Health - Administration

There has been no change in the arrangements whereby the duties are shared by Mr. J. Larwood and Mr. A. Boothman, Local Welfare Officers.

24 patients were admitted to the Mental Hospital of whom 7 were certified, 6 dealt with under section 20 of the Lunacy Act 1890, and 11 were voluntary.

More patients are taking advantage of the voluntary system of admission and treatment.

There is a close liason between the hospital and the Welfare Officers. After-care visits are made and reports submitted to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital after the discharge of patients or when they are on leave.

4 new cases were ascertained under the Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 - 1938, and guardianship orders were made in two cases formerly on licence from the Mental Deficiency Colony.

The classification of the mental defectives living in the community is as follows:-

Ascertained and under statutory supervision	37
Ascertained and under friendly supervision	4
On licence	1
Under guardianship	3

Three cases attend the fortnightly occupation centre at Beech House, Gressenhall, and a further 3 are receiving training in their own homes.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were dealt with under this Act.

Welfare of the Old

An Old People's Club was formed at Bawdeswell during the year. The club meets fortnightly and the membership has doubled within the first six months.

Village Weighing Centres

During the year it was found necessary to close Colkirk centre owing to the poor attendance. Mattishall centre was up-graded to a full infant welfare centre in view of the increase in attendances, and this change necessitated my attendance at each monthly session. Attendances at the weighing centres in the District during the year have been satisfactory.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. GUILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1953.

Water Supplies

Wells of various depths form the major source of water supply in this Rural Area, and to a large extent the quality falls short of the bacteriological standard required in a piped supply in urban areas. The standard followed in this district is as under:-

50 or less B.Coli with no faecal coli is satisfactory.

50 or more B.Coli or with faecal coli present is unsatisfactory and considered unfit for drinking unless thoroughly boiled.

Every effort is made to gain satisfactory results by repairs to the brick lining and top of the wells, cleaning out, and deepening if possible.

133 visits were made in response to queries regarding the purity of the water, or sufficiency of supply, and samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination with the following results.

Shallow wells, bacteriological test.	Satisfactory	17
	Unsatisfactory	51
	Suspicious	2
Deep bores, bacteriological test.	Satisfactory	18
	Unsatisfactory	3

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination:

18 wells were pumped out, cleaned and repaired.
2 wells were bored.

Treatment of well water to improve the quality apart from pumping and cleaning has been by suspension of lime or chlorination.

This has proved effective. In cases of doubt, users were advised to thoroughly boil water as a precautionary measure.

Well Water Cyanosis

The County Public Health Department ensures that water supplies for bottle fed babies is satisfactory in regard to nitrate content, and requested me to submit samples. Alternative supplies have been arranged where necessary.

32 such samples were taken as follows:-

Samples passed safe for babies	...	57	
unsafe " "	...	7) alternative
doubtful " "	...	16) safe supplies
dangerous " "	...	2) arranged.

Quantity. Piped Supplies

There is no general public supply in the District with the exception of 26 houses in Scarning, which are situated on the outskirts of the Dereham Urban District.

The supply to these houses is derived from the town's main supply.

16 of these houses have a direct inside supply, and 2 have a standpipe at the rear.

Private Mains Supply

New Council housing sites have piped supply inside the houses which is obtained from a bore on each site. The North Elmham housing estate obtain their supply from a bore situated at the Old Hall, North Elmham, but will be supplied shortly from the public water mains to be laid in the village, the supply for which will be derived from a new bore.

The general situation shows a tendency to continued improvement and desire to obtain wholesome supplies for domestic purposes.

This trend is particularly marked by the increasing number of persons converting the sanitary pail closet to a water closet, and installing baths and sinks.

In some cases where the normal source of supply has proved to be inadequate or unwholesome, supplies have been made available on a temporary basis, the owners defraying the cost.

Sewerage

No major work of construction or reconstruction of sewer drains was carried out during the year, but the Council did approve an extension to the piped sewer surface drain in Foxley Street. Work did not however commence before 31st. December 1953.

Sections of open combined sewer and surface water drains pass through built up areas in the villages of Lyng, Mileham, Bawdeswell, Gressenhall, Mattishall and Shipdham. These become very offensive in hot or humid weather and from a public health point of view, should be piped in. This would obviate the continued expense of cleaning out and add materially to the amenities of the village.

102 inspections were made in regard to the condition of these open sewer ditches. Sink and other waste water is also frequently discharged into ordinary ditches rendering these foul and a nuisance. Action was taken in 30 cases.

New post-war housing sites are provided with modern installations, the final effluent from the filter beds being disposed of by soil irrigation.

These installations are pumped out at intervals of 3 or 4 months according to the type of plant installed.

63 inspections of these plants were made during the year.

It has been found that the modern detergents used by housewives for ordinary domestic washing etc. have materially affected the proper functioning of these sewerage plants, with resulting deterioration of the final effluent.

Drainage

Progress continues to be made in reconstructing defective drainage systems, and the installation of new drainage to private houses. 13 private systems found to be defective were reconstructed. 24 new drainage systems to existing houses were constructed to provide for water closets, baths and sinks, 74 visits were made to give advice, inspect the work in progress and test on completion.

Drainage systems to 23 houses were completed and tested by my department.

New drainage systems and extensions were tested on 22 housing sites, 69 visits and inspections being made.

Sanitary Accommodation

The old insanitary privy vault is almost a thing of the past. Isolated cases have however been found and these have been converted to the sanitary pail. In some cases of new ownership, a complete conversion to water closet, with installation of drainage system has been made.

Scavenging

The scheme covering the whole of the District is carried out by Messrs. Edwin Clark Ltd. of Aveley, Essex. and has now been in operation for four years under the general supervision of the Sanitary Officers.

Sanitary pails are emptied weekly and house refuse is collected fortnightly.

In addition, a twice yearly service is provided for the clearance of cesspools. It is however necessary to pump out Council House installations more frequently.

As is well known, cesspools are situated at the rear of private houses and Council Houses alike, and difficulty is experienced in gaining access to many of the sites.

In many cases, long lengths of suction hose have to be used entailing a strain on the engine of the vehicle and longer time taken to complete the operation.

This inaccessibility applies particularly to some of the post-war Council house installations.

342 house cesspools and council house sewage installations were emptied during the year.

Disposal of night soil is by spraying on the land especially stubble fields prior to ploughing, or on compost heaps. This latter method has been found to be very effective, and is gaining favour with the farmers on account of building up a material of manurial value between seed time and harvest.

House refuse is deposited in disused pits which are conveniently situated. It is regretted that these dumps become very unsightly at times, and paper is blown about the hedges and road verges during high winds.

Householders could assist in preventing this nuisance very materially by the simple process of burning waste paper, which would reduce the bulk of refuse collected. Another factor is the difficulty experienced in obtaining sufficient waste soil for covering the refuse. Unauthorised persons are often found picking over the refuse after the surface of the tips have been levelled.

The refuse is sprayed frequently with insecticide during the months April to October to keep down flies and other insects.

No major improvement in the type of container used for storage of house refuse has taken place since my Annual Report of 1952.

The receptacles still consist of old oil drums, baths, broken wooden boxes, sacks, etc. These in many cases contain wet refuse, in addition to being left exposed to all weathers without covers.

110 visits were made to refuse pits and night soil disposal sites by your Sanitary Officers, who also investigated complaints and checked on the general working of the scheme.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Three full time rat catchers are employed by the Council to carry out the duties required by the Act. Each man covers an area of approximately one third of the District. Their work is much appreciated and a summary of the visits made is given below:-

Type of Property	No. Inspected	Infestation		Treated	
		Major	Minor	Major	Minor
L.A.	45	9	35	9	35
Dwellings	9535	13	3129	11	3124
Agricultural	1483	22	154	1	45
Business Premises	514	1	24	1	23
Total	11577	45	3342	22	3227

87 visits were made during the year by my department to premises in response to requests and to check on the men's work.

Housing & Public Health Acts

No. of complaints investigated	...	98
No. of inspections and re-inspections	...	332
No. of Moveable Dwellings inspected	...	14
Informal requests to carry out work of repair etc.	...	92
Work completed as a result of above	...	60
Statutory Notices served	...	16
Work completed	...	11
No. of houses considered incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense	...	3
Demolition Orders made	...	2
Closing Orders made	...	1
Derelict houses demolished	...	10
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	Nil
" " " " (1951) determined, House made fit	...	1

Housing Act 1949, Improvement Grant

10 applications were received for a grant under this Act for the purpose of improving property, 4 were subsequently withdrawn. These improvements consist of the installation of a bathroom, water closet, hot and cold water supply modern drainage system, and in some cases, additional bedroom and living room accommodation.

3 schemes were completed and 2 were in progress at the end of the year.

52 inspections were made to give advice prior to an application being submitted and inspect work in progress.

Sale of Food & Drugs Acts, 1938

83 inspections were made during the year of shops, cafes, fried fish establishments, and mobile vans, bakohouses etc.

The Canning Factory (Messrs. Corbatch Ltd) at Beeston is also visited periodically under the above Act and also under the Factory Act.

As a result of representation being made re the condition of the effluent from the processing of fruit and vegetable preparation, the firm called in consultants, and the first part of an extensive alteration to the plant was carried out resulting in an improvement to the effluent.

Unfit Foods

The village stores stock goods of a high quality, and the proprietors take a pride in the setting out of their goods to the best advantage and also in the matter of hygiene.

My advice is sought in any doubt of the unfitness of foodstuffs offered for sale, and the following articles were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

195 tins of plums)	
54 " " tomato puree)	
2 " " pears)	various weight of contents.
1 " " minced beef)	
1 " " corn beef)	
54 lbs. imported lamb		
80 lbs. frozen rabbit.		

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering of animals is carried out at the slaughterhouse in Dereham under the control of the Ministry of Food. The Surveyor to the Urban District, and myself, take alternate weeks of duty to inspect the carcasses. This duty takes place after 5 p.m and sometimes incurs an early morning call.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district. Ice cream is obtained from producers with factories outside the area, and is sold in wrapped packets, tubs or boxes as received direct from the producers. No loose ice cream is retailed except from vehicles operating from Norwich usually on Sundays.

34 retailers are registered with this Authority.

25 samples of ice cream, and 19 iced lollies were submitted to the laboratory with the following results:-

Ice Cream.	Grade 1	...	17	Lollies.	Satisfactory	...	17
	" 2	...	6		Doubtful	...	2
	" 3	...	2				
	" 4	...	Nil				

A large quantity of iced lollies is now delivered by the manufacturers to the retailers under the same conditions as ice cream. They are produced by the same hygienic methods as the ice cream, and are wrapped.

Milk Supplies

This Authority is still responsible for making certain that milk in which the T.B. or Brucella Abortus bacilli has been found is not sold to any of the employees or other persons or consumed raw.

4 visits were made in regard to Brucella Abortus.
3 " " " " " " T.B.

The affected cows in the latter case were slaughtered.

Under the Milk Special Designation (Pasteurised Milk) Regulations, 3 licences were granted to retail pasteurised milk which is bottled and obtained from dairies outside this Area.

New drainage for new or reconstructed cowsheds and dairies have also to be constructed to the satisfaction of your Sanitary Officers. 19 inspections were made for this purpose.

Petroleum Acts

All applications for new licences or renewal of existing licences are investigated by my department.

2 new licences were approved.

Licences now run from 1st. January to 31st. December of each year.

Factory Acts 1937 - 1948

A copy of the annual return as required by the Ministry is included at the end of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. Edwards,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

